Expansion of Antyodaya Anna Yojana

442. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a massive expansion of Antyodaya Anna Yojana is being implemented in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the existing population under BPL in Himachal Pradesh;

(c) whether the scheme has so far been fully implemented to help the families living below poverty line in the State; and

(d) if so, the details of expansion programmes being considered in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The Antyodaya Anna Yojana has been expanded by the Government to cover an additional 50 lakh BPL families in the country including Himachal Pradesh.

(b) The estimated No. of BPL families including Antyodaya families in Himachal Pradesh is 5.14 lakh.

(c) and (d) Foodgrains are being allocated to 2.96 lakhs BPL families including Antyodaya families against the ration card issued to them. Instructions have been issued to the State Govt, to identify additional 0.395 lakh BPL families from amongst widows, terminally ill persons, disabled persons, persons aged 60 years or more and primitive tribal groups, for coverage under the expanded Antyodaya Scheme.

Pesticides in mineral water and aerated drinks

443. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 4519 given in the Rajaya Sabha on the 5th May, 2003 and state:

(a) the present status of revision of existing standards of pesticides residues in packed drinking water and mineral water;

(b) whether Government also propose to collect samples of popular brands of aerated soft drinks in order to detect the presence of harmful

pesticides in them and its effect on the consumers in view of the fact that the manufacturers utilize the same water as that of packaged drinking water and mineral water for the production of the popular brands of aerated soft drinks;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The Unstarred Question 4519 was answered in the Rajya Sabha on 5th May, 2003 by the Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare. BIS has already evolved amendments in the relevant Indian Standards for Packaged Drinking Water and Natural Mineral Water in order to align them with the World's best norms for pesticide residues. They will be implemented as and when they are incorporated in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 which is administered by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(b) to (d) The matter falls under the purview of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act,1954 which is administered by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Sugar mills in current crushing season

†444. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sugar mills which have started sugar production during the current crushing season;

(b) the number of sugar mills which are closed at present, State-wise;

(c) the details of the corrective steps taken to restart these mills, State-wise; and

(d) the target of production of sugar fixed for current crushing season?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.